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## **FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

### **Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

**SUMMARY:** On June 15, 1984, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) its approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.16, to approve of and assign OMB control numbers to collection of information requests and requirements conducted or sponsored by the Board under conditions set forth in 5 CFR 1320 Appendix A.1. Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB inventory of currently approved collections of information. Copies of the Paperwork Reduction Act Submission, supporting statements and approved collection of information instruments are placed into OMB's public docket files. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before [insert date 60 days after publication in the Federal Register].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by *FR 2230*, by any of the following methods:

- Agency Web Site: <http://www.federalreserve.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm>.
- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: [regs.comments@federalreserve.gov](mailto:regs.comments@federalreserve.gov). Include OMB number in the subject line of the message.
- FAX: (202) 452-3819 or (202) 452-3102.
- Mail: Robert deV. Frierson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20551.

All public comments are available from the Board's web site at [www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm](http://www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm) as submitted, unless modified for technical reasons. Accordingly, your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Public comments may also be viewed electronically or in paper form in Room MP-500 of the Board's Martin Building (20th and C Streets, N.W.) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Additionally, commenters may send a copy of their comments to the OMB Desk Officer — Shagufta Ahmed — Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235 725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395-6974.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A copy of the PRA OMB submission, including the proposed reporting form and instructions, supporting statement, and other documentation will be placed into OMB's public docket files, once approved. These documents will also be made available on the Federal Reserve Board's public website at: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/boarddocs/reportforms/review.cfm> or may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below.

Federal Reserve Board Clearance Officer — Cynthia Ayouch — Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551 (202) 452-3829.

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact (202) 263-4869, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Request for comment on information collection proposal**

The following information collection, which is being handled under this delegated authority, has received initial Board approval and is hereby published for comment. At the end of the comment period, the proposed information collection, along with an analysis of comments and recommendations received, will be submitted to the Board for final approval under OMB delegated authority. Comments are invited on the following:

- a. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Federal Reserve's functions; including whether the information has practical utility;
- b. The accuracy of the Federal Reserve's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- c. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
- d. Ways to minimize the burden of information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

- e. Estimates of capital or start up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

**Proposal to approve under OMB delegated authority the extension for three years, with revision, of the following report:**

*Report title:* Bank Secrecy Act Suspicious Activity Report (BSA-SAR).

*Agency form number:* FR 2230.

*OMB control number:* 7100-0212.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Reporters:* State member banks, bank holding companies and their nonbank subsidiaries, Edge and agreement corporations, and the U.S. branches and agencies, representative offices, and nonbank subsidiaries of foreign banks supervised by the Federal Reserve.

*Estimated annual reporting hours:* 139,515 hours.

*Estimated average hours per response:* 1.5 hours.

*Number of respondents:* 6,000.

*General description of report:* The BSA-SAR is mandatory, pursuant to authority contained in the following statutes: 12 U.S.C. 248(a)(1), 625, 1844(c), 3105(c)(2), 3106(a), and 1818(s). SARs are exempt from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) disclosure by 31 U.S.C. § 5319 and FIOA exemption 3 which incorporates into the FOIA certain nondisclosure

provisions that are contained in other federal statutes, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3), and by FOIA exemption 7, which generally exempts from public disclosure “records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes,” 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7). Additionally, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 5318(g), officers and employees of the Federal government are generally forbidden from disclosing the contents of a SAR, or even acknowledging that a SAR exists, to a party involved in a transaction that is the subject of a SAR. Finally, information contained in SARs may be exempt from certain disclosure and other requirements of the Privacy Act pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(k)(2).

*Abstract:* Since 1996, the federal banking agencies (the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration) and the Department of the Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) have required certain types of financial institutions to report known or suspected violations of law and suspicious transactions. To fulfill these requirements, supervised banking organizations file SARs. Law enforcement agencies use the information submitted on the reporting form to initiate investigations and the Federal Reserve uses the information in the examination and oversight of supervised institutions.

*Current Actions:* As BSA administrator, FinCEN is transitioning from industry specific paper forms to electronic submissions. Based on type, financial institutions (depository institutions, broker-dealers in securities, futures commission merchants and introducing brokers in commodities, insurance companies, mutual funds, money services businesses, and casinos) currently provide data on four separate forms. FinCEN has proposed to have one electronically-filed dynamic and interactive BSA-SAR that would be used by all filing institutions to report suspicious activity as of April 1, 2013.

The BSA-SAR would integrate four institution-specific SARs into one data collection. The previous five parts of the SAR-DI remain with changes to their titles and order of completion. Fields from other industry SARs that may be new to depository institutions as well as specific data fields that are new to all types of industry filers have been identified. Please use the following link for a detailed listing of all the proposed revisions.

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/reportforms/review.cfm>

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 29,  
2012.

Robert deV. Frierson,  
Secretary of the Board.  
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